



PRESS RELEASE

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Myanmar Labor Initiative Holds First Stakeholder Forum in Yangon

On May 19, the Initiative to Promote Fundamental Labor Rights and Practices in Myanmar (the Initiative) concluded its first Stakeholder Forum in Yangon. Over 200 participants, representing labor, business, and civil society interests, as well as governments and international organizations, took part in two days of lively and constructive discussions on labor law reform, labor disputes, child labor, the minimum wage, capacity building, and other critical issues tied to Myanmar's labor sector. United States Ambassador Derek Mitchell and the U.S. Department of State's Special Representative for International Labor Affairs Sarah Fox both participated in the forum, along with representatives from the U.S. Department of Labor and the Office of the United States Trade Representative. The discussions by stakeholders helped identify a list of priority labor issues for the Union Government and the Initiative Partners (the United States, Japan, Denmark, the European Union and the International Labor Organization) to consider in developing a long term labor law reform and capacity building plan, as called for under the Initiative.

Launched in November 2014 during President Obama's visit to Myanmar (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/11/13/joint-statement>), the Initiative is designed to improve labor rights through the multi-year labor reform plan, and foster strong relations among businesses, workers, labor and civil society organizations, and the Government of Myanmar through a stakeholder consultative mechanism. These efforts will help improve protection of Myanmar's workers and support its businesses, factors that will increase the country's attractiveness for investment and contribute to overall economic growth and development.

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